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RUTHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

*Year Ended 31st December, 1946*

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health  
(Dr. T. O. JONES)



Gee's Press, Denbigh



# RUTHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Ruthin Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the Sanitary condition of the District, with various statistics, for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Area (in acres) ... ..               | 101,032 |
| Estimated Population ... ..          | 9,882   |
| Rateable Value ... ..                | £42,136 |
| Sum represented by penny rate ... .. | £175    |

## LIVE BIRTHS

The total number of births was 159, being 81 males and 78 females, 4 males and 7 females being illegitimate. Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population being 16.1 as compared with 14.6 for the previous year and 19.1 for England and Wales for the present year.

## STILL BIRTHS

The total number of still births was 3, being 1 male and 2 females. Rate per 1,000 total births equals 18 and 0.30 per thousand population as compared with the rate of 33 and 0.51 respectively for the previous year and 0.53 for England and Wales for the present year.

## DEATHS

69 males and 62 females—total 131, equal to a death rate per 1,000 of estimated population of 13.2, as compared with 12.5 for the previous year and 11.5 for England and Wales for the present year.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| All Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..          | 25  |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..   | 25  |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births ... .. | Nil |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..             | Nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..      | Nil |
| Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ..       | Nil |

## ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE

Three deaths were attributable to Influenza, equal to a rate per 1,000 deaths registered of 23 and 0.30 per 1,000 population.

## MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

|                                     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| Other Tuberculosis Diseases         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Cancer                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Heart Diseases                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43 |
| Bronchitis                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| Pneumonia                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| Nephritis                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Influenza                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Congenital Debility Premature Birth | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Diabetes                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Appendicitis                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Road Traffic Accidents              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Other Accidents                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| Other defined Diseases              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |

## RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—

|              |     |     |     |     |     |      |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Still Births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.53 |
| Live Births  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19.1 |

Deaths:—

|                         |     |     |     |     |     |      |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| All Causes              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11.5 |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.00 |
| Scarlet Fever           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.00 |
| Whooping Cough          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.02 |
| Diphtheria              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.01 |
| Influenza               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.15 |
| Smallpox                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.00 |
| Measles                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.00 |

Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—

|                                                  |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Deaths under 1 year of age                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43  |
| Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4.4 |

## CANCER

15 persons died from Cancer within the year, being 11 males and 4 females, which is equivalent to 1.5 per 1,000 of the population, and at the rate of 114 per 1,000 deaths, as compared with 2.5 and 204 respectively for the previous year.

## TUBERCULOSIS

(New Cases and Mortality during 1946)

| Age<br>Periods | NEW CASES   |   |                     |   | DEATHS      |   |                     |   |
|----------------|-------------|---|---------------------|---|-------------|---|---------------------|---|
|                | Respiratory |   | Non-<br>Respiratory |   | Respiratory |   | Non-<br>Respiratory |   |
|                | M           | F | M                   | F | M           | F | M                   | F |
| 0—1            | 0           | 0 | 0                   | 0 | 0           | 0 | 0                   | 0 |
| 1—5            | 0           | 0 | 0                   | 1 | 0           | 0 | 0                   | 0 |
| 5—10           | 0           | 0 | 0                   | 0 | 0           | 0 | 0                   | 0 |
| 10—15          | 0           | 0 | 0                   | 0 | 0           | 0 | 0                   | 0 |
| 15—20          | 0           | 1 | 0                   | 0 | 0           | 0 | 0                   | 0 |
| 20—25          | 1           | 0 | 0                   | 0 | 0           | 0 | 0                   | 0 |
| 25—35          | 2           | 1 | 0                   | 0 | 0           | 0 | 0                   | 0 |
| 35—45          | 2           | 0 | 0                   | 0 | 0           | 1 | 0                   | 0 |
| 45—55          | 1           | 0 | 0                   | 0 | 0           | 0 | 1                   | 0 |
| 55—65          | 1           | 1 | 0                   | 0 | 3           | 0 | 0                   | 0 |
| 65 & upwards   | 0           | 0 | 0                   | 0 | 0           | 0 | 0                   | 0 |
|                | <hr/>       |   | <hr/>               |   | <hr/>       |   | <hr/>               |   |
|                | 7           | 3 | 0                   | 1 | 3           | 1 | 1                   | 0 |
|                | <hr/>       |   | <hr/>               |   | <hr/>       |   | <hr/>               |   |

The number of cases notified during the year was 10 respiratory and 1 female non-respiratory. The respiratory cases consisted of 7 males and 3 females, as compared with 6 males and 12 females for the previous year.

Tuberculosis accounted for five deaths. Three males and one female respiratory and one male non-respiratory. The total number of deaths from this disease during the year was equivalent to 37 per 1,000 deaths registered.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The undermentioned cases were notified during the year:—

|                |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Dysentery      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Scarlet Fever  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9  |
| Diphtheria     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| Pneumonia      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| Erysipelas     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Paratyphoid    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Measles        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 49 |

11 cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified, 5 being in the Pwllglas district, and 6 occurring in two farms in Gyffylliog. Also 6 cases of Flexnor Dysentery occurred in a large children's school. Careful investigations were made respecting these outbreaks, but no definite cause was ascertained. The water supply, which was derived from a polluted stream, was considered a possible cause in the farm cases.

The two Diphtheria cases which were notified occurred in persons who had not been immunised.

The Scarlet Fever cases occurred in various localities, and were all of a mild nature.

An epidemic of Whooping Cough was prevalent in Llandegla, Llanelidan, and the adjoining localities. This commenced in July and continued until the end of the year.

## DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS

Immunisation against Diphtheria has been efficiently carried out during the year, and the percentage immunised is probably as high as can be attained. Age group 0—5 is approximately 99.4, and age group 5—15 is 99.6. Approximately 600 repeat doses were administered.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

There have been no changes during the year in the Services provided under the following headings:—

Public Health Officers.

Laboratory Facilities.

Ambulance Facilities.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

Hospitals.

Tuberculosis.

Venereal Diseases.

Maternity and Nursing.

Legislation in Force.

Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service in Conway.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

### **Water Supply**

Schemes of water supply involving improvements in filtration, chlorination and storage, together with the laying of many miles of new water mains, are being formulated. These schemes are intended to give piped supplies to areas in the District which are now without such public supplies, and are also for the purpose of improving supplies to certain areas now inadequately served. Piped supplies are proposed for Waen and Geinas (Aberwheeler), Nantglyn, Gyffylliog village and farm areas to the west of the village; Farm areas in the Llanrhaidr and Llanynys Parishes; Bontuchel village (Llanfwrog and Llanynys); Farm areas in Derwen and Clocaenog Parishes; Graigfechan and Pentrecelyn, and farm areas in the Llanfair D.C. Parish, and areas between Llanarmon and Landegla villages. Improvements to existing plant and piped supplies are proposed for Bryneglwys Parish; the Nant-y-Ne source (Llangynhafal); the Prion supply at Meifod (Llanrhaidr), and the Cricor supply (Llanfair D.C.). Existing sources of supply which are of poor quality or which fail in dry seasons will be abandoned in favour of reliable sources. A number of these schemes have now been submitted to the County Council and to the Welsh Board of Health for approval.

During the year 20 additional properties—dwelling houses and farms—were connected to the Council's mains, as well as 12 cattle troughs in fields.

Approximately 50% of the houses throughout the Rural District have a piped water supply; when the schemes already mentioned are in operation this percentage will be greatly increased.

### **Rivers and Streams**

The Scheme for the abatement of stream pollution to which I referred in my last report has had to be revised and is now in an advanced state of preparation. When the work is completed no further complaints should arise.

### **Drains and Sewerage**

12 cases of defective drainage were dealt with, and in 8 cases new drains were laid.

### **Closet Accommodation**

During the year only 4 new water closets were provided for existing premises. The great difficulty in obtaining materials and skilled labour to carry out the work militated against greater improvements.

### **Scavenging**

The Council's Scheme for the removal of refuse continues to function well, and with the return from the Forces of the men in charge of the Plant, many difficulties have been overcome. The outstanding nuisances from the previous year were remedied, and all other complaints promptly dealt with.

Following inspections carried out during the year:—

51 nuisances existed.

51 were remedied.

## Sewerage Disposal

Engineers were engaged by the Council during the year to prepare modern schemes of Sewerage Disposal for nearly all the villages in the District. The preliminary survey work was carried out and a number of schemes were prepared for submission to the Ministry. I sincerely hope that an early start will be made on these schemes.

### Classification of Visits

|                                                                |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Visits in respect of nuisance abatement ... ..                 | 201 |
| Visits in respect of drainage work ... ..                      | 59  |
| Visits in respect of water supplies ... ..                     | 21  |
| Visits to Bakehouses ... ..                                    | 19  |
| Visits to Slaughter Houses (apart from meat inspection ...     | —   |
| Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies ... ..                          | 476 |
| Visits for Food Inspection ... ..                              | 71  |
| Visits to investigate infectious diseases (including T.B.) ... | 46  |
| Re-visits and disinfection ... ..                              | 41  |
| Visits to Factories and Workshops ... ..                       | 45  |

### Classification of Defects Found

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Overcrowding and dirty houses ... ..  | 12 |
| Defective structures ... ..           | 16 |
| W.C. Fittings ... ..                  | 23 |
| Stopped Drains ... ..                 | 46 |
| Defective Drainage ... ..             | 12 |
| Defective Roofs and Spouting ... ..   | 25 |
| Defective Floors ... ..               | 12 |
| Defective Water Supplies ... ..       | 4  |
| Dampness ... ..                       | 37 |
| Number of Premises disinfected ... .. | 41 |

## Housing

|                                |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number erected during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Reconstructed                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7   |

The Council embarked on a number of Housing Schemes during the year and it is to be hoped that next year will see a number of new houses completed. There is still a serious shortage of houses of the working class description in several localities.

A start was also made on a detailed Housing Survey of all houses in the district with a view to ascertaining the true position with regard to Housing, and also to prepare for the future needs of the area.

### Inspection of Dwellings During the Year:—

|                                                                            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Total number inspected                                                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 313 |
| Total number fit (included in subhead above)                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 61  |
| Total number unfit (included in subhead above)                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 93  |
| Total number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 159 |

### Remedy of Defects

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—17.

### Milk and Dairies Order

Number of farms—791, of which 41 are T. Tested and 65 Accredited, as compared with the numbers 749, 41 and 62 for the previous year.

There is one Authority in the District authorised to operate Milk Heat Treatment Plants. The Creamery treat from 8,000 to 22,000 gallons per day during the peak periods. Regular samples were taken for Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests, and only on one occasion was the milk found to be below standard.

## Food

The following food was seized and destroyed, being unfit for human consumption:—

|                                          |
|------------------------------------------|
| 1 Case 44/8 Pilehards.                   |
| 4 Tins of Carrots.                       |
| 2 Tins 60/12 Beef.                       |
| 8 Tins of Luncheon Pork Meat.            |
| 2 Tins of Steak and Kidney.              |
| 9 Tins of Salmon.                        |
| 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Tins of Master Mix. |
| 14 1 lb. Tins of Master Mix.             |

## Factory and Workshops Act

|                      |     |     |     |     |    |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Garages              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5  |
| Flour Mills          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6  |
| Electric Light Works | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Saw Mills            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6  |
| Bakehouses           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6  |
| Building Trades      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5  |
| Butter Factory       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Others               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8  |
|                      |     |     |     |     | —  |
|                      |     |     |     |     | 40 |
|                      |     |     |     |     | —  |

The above were periodically inspected.

## PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BY-LAWS OR REGULATIONS

There were no offensive trades or hop-pickers in the District.

## SCHOOLS

All Elementary Schools within the District were inspected during the year.

## RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928

There were no premises within the District on which Rag Flock is manufactured, used or sold.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Particulars of samples of food and drugs, taken under the above Act, in the Ruthin Rural District during the year ended the 31st December, 1946.

| Article           | Number Taken | Genuine | Not Genuine<br>or<br>Sub-Standard |
|-------------------|--------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Milk ... ..       | 3            | 3       |                                   |
| Butter ... ..     | 2            | 2       |                                   |
| Jam ... ..        | 1            | 1       |                                   |
| Cake Flour ... .. | 1            | 1       |                                   |
| Cocoa ... ..      | 1            | 1       |                                   |
| Vinegar ... ..    | 1            | 1       |                                   |
|                   | —            | —       | —                                 |
| Totals            | 9            | 9       | 0                                 |
|                   | —            | —       | —                                 |

All the samples taken were certified by the Public Analyst as being genuine, and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

D. WYNNE GRIFFITH,

Chief Inspector for the County of Denbigh.

16 Woodland Road East,  
Colwyn Bay.

## RAINFALL

I am again indebted to Major Bromhead, Plas Draw, Ruthin, for the Rainfall Report for 1946.

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| January ... ..   | 3.47  |
| February ... ..  | 4.65  |
| March ... ..     | 1.71  |
| April ... ..     | 0.79  |
| May ... ..       | 3.48  |
| June ... ..      | 3.27  |
| July ... ..      | 1.96  |
| August ... ..    | 3.84  |
| September ... .. | 2.53  |
| October ... ..   | 1.1   |
| November ... ..  | 4.29  |
| December ... ..  | 3.5   |
|                  | —     |
|                  | 34.59 |
|                  | —     |

## GENERAL

I desire to express my appreciation of the very efficient services rendered by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. T. Hughes, and also Mr. Rees.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. O. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.





